

## Activity Summary

**Appropriation:** National Recreation and Preservation  
**Activity:** International Park Affairs

Program Components	2002 Enacted	FY 2003			Change From 2002 (+/-)
		Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Office of International Affairs	950	+8	-7	951	+1
Southwest Border Program	768	0	0	768	0
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>+1</b>

### Authorization

16 U.S.C. 1 National Park Service Organic Act  
 16 U.S.C. 470a-1 National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (Title IV)  
 42 U.S.C. 4332 National Environmental Policy Act  
 16 U.S.C. 1537 Endangered Species Act, as amended  
 19 U.S.C. 3301 *et seq.* North American Free Trade Agreement, December 17, 1992

### Overview

The National Park Service, through the **International Park Affairs** activity, coordinates a number of mandated international assistance and support functions that meaningfully complement the Service's domestic role. These include: support to Regional Offices and park units so that they can collaborate effectively with neighboring countries to protect and manage resources shared across international boundaries; development and support of training workshops and technical assistance projects for other nations to aid in the protection and management of their national parks and protected areas; facilitation of the transfer of park and protected area management information and technology worldwide; and formation of a partnership with Mexico to provide for maximum protection of significant shared natural and cultural resources on the United States/Mexico border.

### Applicable National Park Service Mission Goal

**IIIb2** Communities are satisfied with National Park Service partnership assistance.

**Program Component:** Office of International Affairs  
**FY2002 Enacted:** \$0.950 million

### FY 2002 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

In response to both Executive and Legislative directives, the National Park Service works to protect and enhance America's and the world's parks and protected areas through strengthening the management, operation, and preservation of outstanding natural and cultural resources and critical habitats. The NPS shares its recognized leadership in natural and cultural heritage resource management worldwide and assists in the attainment of United States foreign policy objectives.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) exchanges technical and scientific information, shares knowledge and lessons learned, and provides technical assistance to other nations and United States territories on park and heritage resource management issues. OIA coordinates the placement of international volunteers-in-the-parks and visits by international park professionals and high-ranking officials to NPS sites. It also assists in implementation of international obligations that arise from Legislative mandates and Executive initiatives.

**Long-Term Programs.** The Office of International Affairs develops and implements cooperative international agreements to conduct long-term programs for protected areas conservation and resource management with key international partners. In FY 2001, long-term cooperative programs were being implemented with NPS counterparts in Argentina, Venezuela, China, South Africa, Chile, Hungary, and Spain. Upon the conclusion of these cooperative programs, each of these countries will have shared significant experiences and knowledge on protected areas' issues that will increase their viability as regional role models for and partners with other nations.

#### **International Park Affairs Workload Factors**

<b>Workload Factors</b>	<b>FY 2001 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2002 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2003 Estimate</b>
Response to outside stakeholder requests	100%	100%	100%
Number of new or renewed contacts	19	10	10
Number of long-term programs implemented	8	8	Maintain existing programs
Response to technical assistance requests	100%	100%	100%
Response to park requests	100%	100%	100%
Number of international volunteers working to strengthen NPS resource management	174	125	125

- In coordination with the parks, most cooperative activities under NPS long-term international programs are scheduled in the spring/early summer and fall periods. In 2001, a number of international activities were postponed due to the terrorist events.
- Under the NPS – National Park Agency of China agreement, a workshop was held in October 2000 in Chengdu in which 5 NPS scientists presented papers. In June 2001, a 20-person delegation from China traveled to several U.S. park units and the Albright Training Center to study and learn about park management and operations. In FY 2002, an exchange of delegations for study purposes is anticipated and the agreement on a second two-year plan of action is expected.
- A law enforcement training workshop will be held in FY 2002 in South Africa with South African National Parks and a workshop on interpretive planning is tentatively scheduled.
- In FY 2002 several activities are planned. Under the three separate agreements with Argentina, Venezuela, and Chile. The NPS will host a Chilean delegation examining our training and development facilities and programs. Workshops will be held in Chile on environmental education and economic benefits of parks to local communities. A needs assessment of concessions management operations within the Venezuelan and Argentina national parks systems will be conducted and follow-up training activities will be developed and implemented. Additional workshops on interpretive media and facility planning and consultations regarding the establishment of partnership foundations are scheduled to be held in Argentina.
- A study tour on U.S. protected areas of grasslands and prairies and a study tour on cave units within the U.S. National Park System were conducted under the NPS-Hungary Memorandum of Understanding in FY 2001. Several activities were postponed until FY 2002. It is expected that a law enforcement and a geographic information systems training workshop will be conducted. Training in U.S. community outreach techniques and the establishment of sister park relationships between Olympic and Balatan and Badlands and Hortobagy national parks will be conducted in spring 2002.

The National Park Service also shares management responsibility for preservation and conservation of natural and cultural resources with international park authorities along United States borders with Canada and Mexico as well as with neighboring Russia and the Caribbean Basin. The NPS accomplishes these responsibilities through decentralized activities initiated directly between NPS park units and field offices and their counterparts across the border.

**Technical Assistance.** Every year technical assistance requests from a wide variety of countries around the globe arise on an ad hoc basis. They are not usually included in OIA's annual planning exercises. If funding resources exist to meet these requests, the activities are developed and implemented.

- In June 2001, NPS representatives accompanied a sister-city delegation from Lowell, Massachusetts to Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The delegation from Lowell, which has a large Cambodian-American community, visited two other cities and two key "killing fields" sites. Among other goals, this visit sought to identify ways in which the city of Lowell and Lowell National Historical Park might work with institutions there to preserve Cambodian culture and interpret the country's tragic recent history.
- In FY 2001, an NPS team completed a planning trip to Qatar to assist the government in the planning of its national park system. This endeavor was done in conjunction with the Government of Qatar and with the Qatar Gas and Mobil Oil partnership.

**International Resource Management.** OIA provides support to, representation on behalf of and direction to the Service for its international legislative responsibilities.

- In FY 2001, the National Park Service Director and OIA participated in two high level meetings on conservation and protected areas to help plan for the World Parks Congress to be held in Durban, South Africa in 2003. In 2002, NPS representatives will attend related planning meetings.
- In FY 2001, technical revisions to the World Heritage program regulations (36 CFR 73) were completed, eliminating the outdated annual calendar for preparation and submission of U.S. nominations and correcting the obsolete criteria for selection of sites. These technical revisions were approved by the Administration and published in 2001.
- NPS representatives will attend meetings of the World Heritage Committee in FY 2002. The U.S. is an observer to those meetings, not a member of the Committee. A high level meeting with Parks Canada to begin work on periodic reporting on the World Heritage sites in the two countries will be undertaken in FY 2002. It is due to the World Heritage Committee in 2004.

OIA coordinates with NPS field office staff to facilitate training opportunities, both domestically and abroad, for park and conservation professionals. Park Service employees benefit from their direct interaction and exchanges with their international professional colleagues.

#### At A Glance...

- NPS units have established "sister park" relationships with 19 national parks in other nations.
- In FY 2001, a total of 174 international volunteers assisted NPS field staff through a variety of work-study opportunities.

#### FY 2003 Budget Request: Office of International Affairs

Request Component	Amount
FY 2002 Budget Request	950
Programmatic Changes	
• Travel reduction	-7
<b>TOTAL, Program Changes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>-7</b>
Uncontrollable changes	+8
<b>FY 2003 Budget Request</b>	<b>951</b>
Net change	+1

<sup>1</sup>Justification for program changes can be found at the end of this activity's presentation.

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**Program Component: Southwest Border Program**  
**FY2002 Enacted: \$0.768 million**

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**FY 2002 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments**

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The National Park Service manages seven park areas along the 20,000-mile border shared between the United States and Mexico. They include Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Coronado National Memorial, Chamizal National Memorial, Big Bend National Park, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, Amistad National Recreation Area, and Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site. The Service administers roughly 18 percent of the land on the United States side of the border. Mexico manages nine protected areas in the U.S./Mexico Border Region. These areas include Parque Nacional Constitución de 1857, Alto Golfo y Delta del Rio Colorado, El Pinacate, Gran Desierto de Altar, Reserva Federal Sierra de los Ajos, Canyon de Santa Elena, Maderas del Carmen, Parque Nacional Iod Novillos and Reserve de Cuatrociénegas. Memoranda of Understanding have been established between the NPS and two Mexican federal agencies for collaboration on the protection, preservation, and conservation of shared natural and cultural resources along the border.

The NPS United States-Mexico Affairs Office (MEAF) was established to fulfill the mission of strengthening cooperation between entities in the United States and Mexico for the design and implementation of strategies for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage shared by both countries. The MEAF office located at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, facilitates the completion of Service responsibilities related to border park protection and responds to environmental concerns. This is being accomplished through the following international activities:

- Park management and planning, wildlife research field training courses, environmental education, organization and support for international forums on conservation, and providing technical assistance on natural and cultural resource management plans.
- Continued leadership and support for international forums on the management of protected areas and wildlife
- Continued leadership role on the United States Department of the Interior Field Coordinating Committee to achieve a unified agency approach to bi-national management issues with Mexico.
- Continued support of the formation of an ecological bi-national partnership within the Sonoran Desert Region.
- Assisting New Mexico State University to form a bi-national education program for the conservation and management of natural resources along the United States/Mexico Border.
- Collaborating with Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History for the establishment of a binational Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Historic Trail in both countries.
- Working with United States/Mexico federal, state, municipal, and private entities on the Mimbres-Paquime connection trail located in southern New Mexico and northern Chihuahua, and La Rute de Sonora located in southwestern Arizona and Baja California, Sonora, Mexico.
- Collaborating with Mexican colleagues on research projects, inventories, and the development of appropriate protection strategies for archeological and paleontological resources in the Border region.
- Continued partnership role and support for international forums that focus on the protection, management, and conservation of historic and cultural areas.

**Performance Goals****Goal IIIb2. Partner with communities to provide additional recreational opportunities and protect resources**

Target	Measure	Goals	
		Annual FY 2003	Long-term FY 2005
Community recreation opportunities and resource protection	Percent of communities satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreation and conservation benefits on land and waters	94.4%	95.0%

**Southwestern Border Program Performance Information**

Performance measure	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Estimate	FY 2003 Estimate
Percent of states, communities, and nonprofit organizations served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreation and conservation	93.8%	93.8%	93.8%

The FY 2002 program includes the design and implementation of educational courses, international forums, and research programs for United States and Mexican personnel assigned to protected areas. This will be facilitated in full partnership with colleagues from the National Institutes of Ecology and Anthropology and History.

**FY 2003 Budget Request: Southwest Border Program**

Request Component	Amount
FY 2002 Budget Request	768
Programmatic Changes	No Change
<b>TOTAL, Program Changes<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>0</b>
Uncontrollable changes	No Change
<b>FY 2003 Budget Request</b>	<b>768</b>
Net change	No Change

<sup>1</sup>Justification for program changes can be found at the end of this activity's presentation.

**Justification Of Total FY 2003 Budget Request For International Park Affairs**

Request Component	Amount
FY 2002 Budget Request	1,718
Programmatic Changes	
• Travel Reduction	-7
<b>TOTAL, Program Changes</b>	<b>-7</b>
Uncontrollable changes	+8
<b>FY 2003 Budget Request</b>	<b>1,719</b>
Net change	+1

**Travel Expenses: -\$0.007 million**

The NPS proposes to effect savings of \$0.007 million in this program by reducing travel and associated costs by implementing management reforms to achieve savings.